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In the claims:

1. (currently amended) Apparatus for use by a wireless device in a wireless communications environment including multiple access points and stations, wherein stations gain network access by associating with one of the access points, comprising:

logic for associating the wireless device with a current access point on ~~one~~ a first channel;

logic for ascertaining, by the wireless device, whether the wireless device should attempt to associate with an alternative access point operating on a second ~~another~~ channel, the ascertaining logic employing, at least in-part, indications of signal strengths of transmissions from the current and alternative access points; and

logic for requesting association with the alternative access point ~~operating on another~~ channel if it is ascertained that the wireless device should attempt to associate with said alternative access point.

2. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

logic for automatically collecting, by the wireless device, information about access points operating on other channels.

3. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the logic for ascertaining ascertains that the wireless device should attempt to associate with the alternative ~~another~~ access point operating on said ~~different~~ second channel if the alternative access point on said ~~different~~ second channel is closer than the current access point.

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4. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the logic for ascertaining ascertains that the alternative access point on said ~~different~~ second channel is closer than the current access point by:

calculating a first biased distance between the wireless device and the current access point based on "x" samples;

calculating a second biased distance between the wireless device and the alternative access point operating on said ~~another~~ second channel based on "y" samples where "y" is less than "x";  
and

ascertaining that the alternative access point operating on said ~~another~~ second channel is closer than the current access point if the second biased distance is less than the first biased distance.

5. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the logic for requesting association requests association by sending a message to the access point operating on said ~~another~~ second channel.